

UNCLASSIFIED

BRIEFING PAPER FOR PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

August 20, 1963

SUBJECT: U.S. Assistance to Cuban Exiles

QUESTION

Can you say whether the US is encouraging and supporting the Cuban underground in any way?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

The Washington Post published an article on August 13 to the effect that the United States, through the CIA, is providing material assistance to Cuban exile organizations for action in Cuba. The same day, the Department's press spokesman was asked whether he cared to comment on the article. He replied: "I don't know anything about the subject, but if I did I would not discuss it."

At your May 22 press conference you were asked whether any arms or financial assistance were being given to Cuban exile groups on a regular basis. You replied: "None that I am familiar with," and "I don't know whether it would be a matter I would want to discuss here in any case."

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY

Last May 22 I was asked a similar question. I said then that this is a matter I would not want to discuss here. My reply today is the same.

UNCLASSIFIED